



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

September 20, 2011

The Honorable C.L. "Butch" Otter
State Capitol
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720

Dear Governor Otter:

During the week of October 11, 2010, staff from the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF) program from the U.S. Department of Education (Department) conducted the first of two monitoring reviews of your State's implementation of the SFSF program. Your State's SFSF contacts were extremely helpful in coordinating and responding to this desk review.

During the monitoring review, we discussed your State's policies, procedures, and activities related to the SFSF program. We spoke with officials at local educational agencies (LEAs) and public institutions of higher education (IHEs) that have received Education Stabilization Fund grants, as well as with representatives of entities that have received Government Services Fund grants (GSF). A complete description of the scope of the monitoring review and the SFSF monitoring protocols are available on the Department's website at <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/statestabilization/applicant.html>.

The Department found that the State implemented the program expeditiously and effectively to meet the financial needs of LEAs, IHEs, and other State agencies. The results of our review demonstrate Idaho's commitment to ensuring that the funds were spent quickly, while balancing the need for accountability and transparency.

In the program review, the Department identified two issues regarding the State's implementation of the program, each of which has since been resolved. Specifically, the Department found that the State made funds available to LEAs prior to making the applications available. The State has since obtained applications from each LEA that received funds. The Department also found that two GSF sub-grantees did not receive 1511 infrastructure certifications demonstrating that the State properly vetted and approved the sub-grantee.

<http://www.ed.gov/>

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The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

The State has since provided 1511 certifications for these GSF sub-grantees.

The Department is grateful for the cooperation and responsiveness of the staff in Idaho. Monitoring not only helps States to achieve high-quality implementation but also helps the Department to improve its role as an advisor and partner with States in this effort. As we work together, we want this process to be interactive and helpful.

We will contact your office in the near future to schedule the second monitoring review of the State's implementation of the SFSF program. We look forward to collaborating with you and the other officials in Idaho who are working on this critical educational initiative.

Sincerely,

Ann Whalen
Director, Policy and Program Implementation
Implementation and Support Unit

cc: David Fulkerson